Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 17 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Sunday 18 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Saturday 17 Feb 2024 at 02:15

Confidence: High for the mild conditions continuing through much of the forecast period and for rather unsettled at times, but lower for timing of arrival and clearance of rain, especially Tuesday and Wednesday.

Headline for Saturday 17 Feb 2024: Patchy rain morning, brighter afternoon, more rain later. Strengthening winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 17 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Drizzle	Mist	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
60%	50%	20%	40%	90%	90%

Forecast for Saturday 17 Feb 2024

Weather: Cloudy start with outbreaks of mainly light rain and drizzle. The rain and drizzle becomes more confined to southern fells through the morning with some bright or sunny spells developing, especially over northern and eastern fells. Cloud increases again from mid-afternoon with heavy rain then spreading east through the late afternoon and evening, the rain starting to clear eastwards towards midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance across southern and western fells but becoming 40% across northern and eastern fells through the morning and much of daylight hours.

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud 600-750m lowering to 450m at times with patches below, but becoming more occasional at times across northern and eastern fells through the morning and much of daylight hours. Away from cloud visibility good falling to just a few kilometres in drizzle and heavier rain.

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Forecast for Saturday 17 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/26 S	27/32 S	25/31 S	32/40 S	38/47 S	28/34 SW	24/29 SW
600	23/30 S	25/33 S	20/26 S	27/36 S	30/40 S	20/27 SW	18/25 SW
300	7/21 S	9/22 S	8/22 S	10/28 S	11/31 S	7/22 SW	7/21 SW
Valley	3/15 SE	6/18 S	7/19 S	9/25 S	11/30 S	6/18 SW	6/18 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	6/2	5/-1	4/-2	6/0	6/0	5/-0	6/0
600	7/2	6/1	6/1	7/2	8/3	7/2	7/3
300	7/5	7/4	8/6	9/6	9/7	8/6	8/6
Valley	8/8	8/7	10/8	10/9	11/8	9/8	9/8
Freezing Level*	1800m	1700m	1700m	2200m	2400m	2100m	1800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling rather cold on higher fells as winds increase, with gusts around 55mph over ridges and summits in afternoon.

Forecast for Sunday 18 Feb 2024

Weather: Rain continues to clear east overnight with clear spells developing to leave a bright day with sunny spells and a few showers, mainly in the west through the morning and early afternoon. Best of the sunshine in the east.

Maximum wind: Westerly 15-20mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 40% at first and through much of the day in west, but rising to 75% across eastern fells, by mid-morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional or, especially at first and in the west, periods of cloud above 600-750m, lowering to 450m at times in any showers. Away from cloud visibility good or very good, falling briefly in showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6 or 7 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 12 Celsius by day
At 800m: Around 4 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 16 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:40 Full report: The vast majority of the fells up to, and including, summit level are now free from snow and, as far as we are aware, all paths in the Lake District are now clear of unavoidable snow and ice. This includes exposed routes such as the Helvellyn Edges which can now be climbed without setting foot on snow. The snow that remains lies in isolated, insignificant patches above 700m in sheltered spots and hollows with the vast majority now above 900m on steep north and especially steep east facing aspects. Owing to these locations this snow represents no hazard to walkers. It was plus 4 degrees on the summit around midday and damp in the cloud so where undisturbed the little snow left was wet and thawing. The only exception to this is where snow has been compacted on popular routes above 700m into hard snow and ice; however, even these isolated patches have been thawing over the past couple of days with few now remaining. The main difficulty encountered underfoot today was the slippery nature of the wet rock especially when on steep and exposed terrain. Despite the milder weather, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was minus 2 degrees around midday, so full winter clothing (waterproofs – which double as windproofs - , extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. The cloud above 650m sometimes reduced visibility to around 30m and I was asked several times where the summit was. While willing to help, such assistance may not always be available so a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently in poor visibility is essential for anyone heading into the fells. As well as limiting visibility, the low cloud made it feel like walking in drizzle and it was noticeable that those without overtrousers were getting both wet and probably cold and uncomfortable, so waterproofs are always worth packing even if you don’t think that it’s going to rain. Temperature: plus 4.1 C, Maximum wind speed 17.3 mph, Wind chill: minus 1.9 C, Average wind speed: 13.4 mph

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